

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 670 - SB 712

March 12, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a student to be seven years of age or older on or before August 15 or to be proficient in the kindergarten academic standards, as evidenced by the student's performance on the first-grade entry assessment administered to the student before being promoted to the first grade. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to create a first-grade entry assessment to determine whether a student is prepared to succeed in the first grade based upon the student's knowledge of the kindergarten academic standards. Requires each local education agency (LEA) and public charter school to administer a first-grade entry assessment. Applies to the 2024-25 school year and subsequent years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$4,416,400/FY23-24

\$3,696,300/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years

Increase Local Expenditures - \$5,000,000/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation would require DOE, LEAs, and public charter schools to put a compliance monitoring system in place to ensure that students promoted to the first grade met proficiency or age requirements.
- DOE would be required to develop of a high-stakes first-grade entrance exam based on the kindergarten standards in all four subject areas.
- The assessment of students at this age for a high-stakes assessment, in all four subject areas, would require a one-to-one student to teacher ratio. DOE would have to train LEA and charter school staff on administering a standardized, high stakes assessment to kindergarten students that provides accurate measures of proficiency.
- For a single staff member assessing a class of 20 students in this format, it is estimated to take up to 10 school days. Screening students with these assessments at the beginning or the end of the school year would cause this assessment to overlap with legally mandated screening assessments.
- The new assessment would require the development of items at a previously untested grade level but would also include subject areas that aren't previously assessed in elementary schools at this time.
- A standardized, high stakes assessment typically takes 12 to 14 months to produce and would involve a field-testing year to validate item performance with Tennessee students.

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This would include 10 days of certificated substitute teachers to administer the assessment to a class of 20 students, at \$125 per day, for a total of 4,000 kindergarten teachers across the state.

- It is estimated that staffing expenditures to support one to one administration will increase local expenditures by \$5,000,000 in FY24-25 and subsequent years (10 days x \$125 x 4,000 students).
- The state's 2021-22 3rd grade ELA proficiency rate of 36 percent is used as a proxy for a future kindergarten assessment proficiency rate; the projections assume that a 4 percent annual growth on statewide standardized assessments represent larger than expected growth observed nationally, on average.
- Assessment development is estimated to have the following costs:
 - \$1,170,901 for item development expenditures;
 - \$1,122,138 for administration activities;
 - \$1,415,139 for assessment materials expenditures;
 - \$600,969 for assessment reporting expenditures; and
 - \$107,265 for one Education Consultant 4 (\$85,704 salary + \$21,561 benefits).
- It is estimated that the administration activities will contain a one-time cost to conduct 16 regional training sessions, which will increase state expenditures by \$720,160 in FY23-24. Such expenditures will not be incurred in subsequent years.
- The total increase in state expenditures for assessment development is \$4,416,412 (\$1,170,901 + \$1,122,138 + \$1,415,139 + \$600,969 + \$107,265) in FY23-24 and \$3,696,252 (\$4,416,412 - \$720,160) in FY24-25 and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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